CACFP Center Handy Guide to Creditable Foods

Green

Revised 2/15

- 1. Creditable foods are used to meet CACFP meal pattern requirements. This list is established by USDA and the lowa Department of Education, Bureau of Nutrition and Health Services to help assure good nutrition for all participants. The USDA reference is the Crediting Handbook for the CACFP http://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/crediting-handbook-child-and-adult-care-food-program. Organizations are encouraged to consult the Crediting Handbook or contact the State agency with questions regarding specific foods or quantities.
- This is a partial listing of creditable foods for children one year of age and older, and adult participants.
- 3. Foods are creditable only if the minimum required quantity of each food component is served. The amount required depends on the age of the participant, the type of meal, the type of food product used and the number served.
- 4. Water must be made available during meals and throughout the day. Water is not a creditable food and cannot replace any required meal component.
- An allergy/exception statement from a medical authority is required when a participant cannot follow the meal pattern due to a disability. The allergy/exception statement is recommended if the participant has a food allergy but can follow the meal pattern.

Milk



- 1. Milk must be pasteurized fluid milk, fortified with vitamins A and D.
- 2. Participants must be served milk at breakfast, lunch and supper. For children, milk may not be credited for snacks when juice is served as the other component. Milk may be one of the two required components for snacks. Serving milk at supper to an adult participant is optional.
- 3. Non-dairy beverages that are nutritionally equivalent to milk can be served if a parent note is on file (see p. 2-21 & 2-22).
- 4. It is recommended that whole milk be served to children between one and two years of age.
- 5. Milk must be served as a beverage or over cereal.
- 6. Milk is not creditable when used in cooking (e.g., soup, custard, and pudding).
- 7. A separate meal pattern and reimbursable foods list is available and must be followed for infants. CACFP requires that breast milk or iron-fortified infant formula be fed until the infant's first birthday. In lowa, current child care center licensing standards require whole milk, iron-fortified formula or breast milk for children under two years, unless otherwise directed by a physician. CACFP allows children one month to transition to whole cow's milk after the first birthday. An allergy/exception statement is needed to serve iron-fortified formula after 13 months of age. Breast milk may be served to children until two years of age.

Creditable

Acidified milk (acidophilus), non-fat or fat free (skim), low fat (1%)

Breast milk, until the child turns two years of age

Buttermilk, cultured milk or kefir

Cow's milk, flavored or unflavored including chocolate

non-fat or fat free (skim), low fat (1%)

Cocoa – made only from fluid skim or 1% milk

Goat's milk, flavored or unflavored including chocolate

non-fat or fat free (skim), low fat (1%)

Lactose-reduced milk

non-fat or fat free (skim), low fat (1%)

Milkshakes - only the milk portion

Milk substitutes when nutritionally equal to cow's milk* (with a

written request from a parent/guardian)

Organic milk, flavored or unflavored including chocolate non-fat or fat free (skim), low fat (1%)

Smoothies – only the milk portion credits for milk

Soy milk - only if a parent note is on file and the

nutrients are nutritionally equivalent to cow's milk*

UHT milk – ultra high temperature (shelf stable) cow's milk

Whole milk - for children 1-2 years of age only

Yogurt – for adult participants (and in smoothies, except for breakfast)

*Products known to meet this requirement are 8th Continent Soy Milk (regular and vanilla), Silk Original Soymilk, Pacific Natural Ultra Soymilk (plain and vanilla), Great Value Original Soymilk, Westsoy (organic, plain and vanilla) and Kikkoman shelf-stable product in individual containers (vanilla and chocolate). Allergy/exception statements are required for other brands. Contact the State agency if you have questions about a specific product.

Non creditable

Almond milk

Cocoa mix made with water

Coconut milk

Coffee creamers

Cream

Cream sauce

Cream soup

Custard

Dry milk

Eggnog

Evaporated milk

Half and half

Ice cream and frozen yogurt

Ice milk

Imitation milk

Pudding

Pudding pops

Raw milk (certified or uncertified)1

Reconstituted dry milk (only with State approval)

Rice milk

Sherbet or sorbet

Sour cream

Soy milk, beverage or drink (when not nutritionally equal to cow's milk)

Sweetened condensed milk

Whole and 2% milk for children over age 2

Yogurt – for children ages 1-12 years (creditable only as a meat alternate).

¹Serving this food is prohibited. It may not be served as an "extra" food.

Meat/Meat Alternates

- Meat/meat alternates may include lean meat, poultry, fish, cheese, eggs, nuts, seeds, nut or seed butters, cooked dry beans or split peas, and yogurt. Meats must be inspected by the appropriate health authority. A combination of two meat/meat alternates may be served at the same meal to total the required serving size. A meat/meat alternate is required at lunch and supper; may be served as a component at snack; and may be served as an extra food at breakfast.
- At least ¼ ounce or ½ tablespoon of cooked lean meat or its equivalent must be served to count as part of the required serving.
- Cooked dry beans or split peas may be used either as a vegetable or as a meat alternate, but not both in the same meal.
- Nuts or seeds may fulfill no more than ½ of the required meat/meat alternate serving at lunch and supper.
- In breaded products, and meat sauces only the meat portion is counted. 5.
- For commercial combination products, read labels carefully:
 - a. If the product name exactly matches a food item listed in the Food Buying Guide (FBG), use it to determine how much to serve.
 - b. If the product is not listed in the FBG, a Child Nutrition (CN) label (see p 2-15), or signed Product Formulation Statement (PFS) from the manufacturer (not a salesperson or distributor) is required (see p 2-16). Examples of commercial combination foods include meat products that contain cereal, binders and extenders*; canned or frozen stew; commercial lasagna; canned pasta; pizza; pot pie; ravioli; and breaded meats like chicken nuggets or fish sticks.
- If combination foods are prepared from scratch at the center, a standardized recipe must be on file that includes the amount of all ingredients, the serving size, the number of servings it yields, and amount of meat/meat alternate per serving (see p. 2-18).
- Shell fish or nuts may cause food intolerances, especially among preschool participants.

Creditable

Canadian bacon and ham (use FBG for yield) Q

Cheese, natural or processed O

Cheese food, spread or substituteQ

(2 oz. = 1 oz. meat alternate)

Corndogs - only the hot dog counts as meat Q

Cottage cheese, ricotta cheese O

1/4 c. or 2 oz. = 1 oz. meat alternate

Dried peas, beans, lentils, refried beans, soy beans

(canned or cooked from dry $-\frac{1}{4}$ c. = 1 oz. meat alternate)

Eggs, whole only - fresh, frozen, dried or liquid

Falafel (only the bean portion counts)

Fish and shellfish – cooked, count only meat portion

Fish sticks or portions (use FBG for yield) Q

Hot dogs (must be all meat; no cereals, binders or extenders) O

Hummus (must have recipe or PFS)

Liver, kidney, tripe

Lunch meat Q - all meat; no cereals, binders or extenders* (only those listed in the FBG, with CN label or PFS)

Peanuts, nuts, seeds, soynuts¹

Peanut, nut, soy or seed butter, regular¹

Pizza, homemade (must have recipe) **Q**

Pot pies, homemade (must have recipe)

Quiche (must have recipe) O

Sausage (must be all meat; no cereals, binders or extenders)*

Soups (must be homemade with at least 1/4 oz. or

equivalent of meat/meat alternate per serving to credit)

Spare ribs, only lean meat portion O

Tahini (credit as a seed butter)

Yogurt, commercial (including tube); plain, flavored, low fat, unsweetened or sweetened (use FBG for yield)

OLimit use, since may be high in salt and/or high in saturated fat.

- * Examples include: starch, soy flour, soy protein isolate, isolated soy
- ¹ Choking risk to those under 4 years and the elderly.
- ² Alternate protein products may be up to 100% non-meat protein, and must have a CN label or signed Product Formulation Statement (PFS).
- ³ Serving these foods is prohibited. They may not be served as "extra" foods.

Non creditable

Alternate protein products such as vegetarian patties2 (must have CN label or PFS)

Bacon, bacon-bits, imitation bacon

Canned cheese sauce

Canned or frozen combination foods (must have CN label, recipe or PFS)

Cheese product or imitation cheese (Velveeta)

Chestnuts

Coconut

Commercial breaded meat products (must have CN label or PFS)

Cream cheese

Egg substitutes, whites, yolks

Fish – home caught or home pickled³O

Frozen yogurt

Game - venison, squirrel, fish etc. (must be USDA or State inspected)

Ham hocks, pigs' feet, neck bones, tail bones

Home canned meats, home slaughtered meats³

Imitation meats/meat alternates (e.g. imitation crab meat)

Jerky (beef, turkey salmon)

Meat products made with binders or extenders² (must have CN label or PFS)

Nutella

Pepperoni² (must have CN label or PFS)O

Pizza, commercial (must have CN label, recipe or PFS)O

Pot pies, commercial (must have CN label, recipe or PFS)Q

Potted, pressed or deviled canned meat (e.g., Spam)Q

Powdered cheese - in boxed macaroni and cheese

Processed meats with cereals, binders or extenders² (creditable only if CN labeled)*

Salami (must have CN label or PFS) O

Snack meat sticks (smoked, beef, poultry, pepperoni) O

Soup - commercial canned

Soy cheese³ (must have CN label, recipe or PFS)

Spam

Sausage - Polish, Summer, Vienna, (must have CN label or PFS) Q

Turkey bacon (must have CN label or PFS)Q

Tofu, tempeh, seitan

Vegetable/meat protein mixtures², (must have CN label or

Yogurt - homemade3, yogurt-covered fruits, nuts

Vegetables and Fruits



- 1. Most fruits and vegetables are creditable. Serve a variety for improved nutrition.
- 2. A minimum of two different vegetables and/or fruits must be served at lunch and supper. One fruit, vegetable, or juice must be served at breakfast.
- 3. At least ½ cup (2 tablespoons) of fruit or vegetable must be served to each participant in order to count toward meeting the minimum serving size requirement.
- 4. All fruit juices must be pasteurized. Full strength (100%) juice must be served. Juices labeled "juice", "full strength juice", "100% juice", "single strength juice", "juice from concentrate" or "reconstituted juice" are full strength. Juices that are naturally high in or fortified with vitamin C are recommended.
- 5. Juice may count up to ½ of the total fruit/vegetable requirement for lunch or supper.
- 6. Juice may not be served for snack if milk is the only other required food served.
- 7. Two different fruits and/or vegetables cannot be served as the two required components at snack. A second food item from a different component group must be served.
- 8. Two forms of the same food (e.g. apples and apple juice) cannot be credited in the same meal.
- 9. Combinations such as fruit cocktail, fruit salad, succotash, mixed vegetables, peas and carrots, stew vegetables and casserole vegetables, count as one fruit/vegetable.
- 10. Cooked dry beans or split peas may be credited as either a vegetable or meat alternate, but not as both in the same meal.

Creditable

Apple cider - must be pasteurized

Baby carrots³

Dried peas, beans, lentils, baked beans, refried beans, soy beans (canned or cooked from dry)

Chopped vegetables, in homemade casserole, stew¹

Coleslaw1

Cranberry juice blend – if a blend of full strength juices

Cranberry sauce – made with whole cranberries (not jellied)

Dehydrated vegetables - measure when re-hydrated

Desserts made with fruit1

Dried fruit (apricots, dates, figs, prunes, raisins)

Edamame (green soy beans)

Frozen juice bars - must be made with 100% fruit and/or juice

Fruit cobbler, crisp¹

Fruit cocktail - counts as one fruit

Fruit or vegetable in gelatin or pudding¹

Fruit pie, homemade¹ (must have recipe)

Fruit puree (100% fruit)

Fruit sauce, homemade¹ (must have recipe)

Juice, 100% full strength

Juice blends - if a blend of full strength juices.

Juice concentrates, reconstituted to equal 100% juice

Kale

Kiwi fruit

Mixed vegetables - count as one vegetable

Mushrooms

Mustard greens

Olives^{1,3} ◆

Onion rings, homemade^{1, 2} ◆(must have recipe)

Pickles^{1,3} ◆

Pimentos¹

Pizza sauce¹

Potatoes

Potato skins

Salsa (all vegetable including spices)

Smoothies -- including fruits and/or vegetables (puree = juice)

Soup (tomato or veg.) – if commercial, 1 c. soup = $\frac{1}{4}$ c. veg

Spaghetti sauce1

Tomato paste – 1 Tbsp. = $\frac{1}{4}$ c. vegetable

Tomato puree -2 Tbsp. $= \frac{1}{4}$ c. vegetable

Tomato sauce – 4 Tbsp. or $\frac{1}{4}$ c. = $\frac{1}{4}$ c. vegetable

Tomato juice

Vegetable juice blend (e.g., V-8 juice)

Limit use, since high in salt and/or high in fat.

Non creditable

Apple butter

Banana chips, commercial

Barbecue sauce

Caffeinated drinks

Chili sauce

Coconut

Corn chips³ (count as grain/bread if whole grain or enriched)

Dry spice mixes

Frozen fruit flavored bars, popsicles

Fruit "drink"

Fruit flavored syrup or powder

Fruit in cookies, breads, muffins, and grain bars - (e.g., Fig

Newtons)

Fruit in commercial fruited yogurt

Fruit leather, fruit rollups, fruit shapes

Fruit flavored canned punch (e.g., Hawaiian Punch)

Fruit flavored ice cream

Fruit flavored water

Fruit syrup - from canned fruit

Gummy fruit candy³

Home canned fruits and vegetables

Hominy

Honey, syrups, jam, jelly, preserves

Jell-O, gelatin

Juice cocktails (e.g., cranberry, grape, etc.)

Juice drink

Ketchup, condiments and seasonings

Kool-Aid

Lemon pie filling

Lemonade

Orangeade

Pickle relish◆

Pizza, commercial² (must have CN label, recipe or PFS)

Popsicles - commercial

Posole

Potato chips, potato sticks3

Pudding with fruit - commercial

Raw sprouts

Sherbet, sorbet (must have CN label, recipe or PFS)

Sports drinks

Toaster pastry filling

¹ Only the vegetable or fruit portion counts. Must have at least ½ cup (2 Tablespoons) per serving.

² If a commercial product, must have a standardized recipe, CN label or PFS.

³ Choking hazard

Grains/Breads



- 1. Creditable grains/breads must list whole grain or enriched flour/meal, bran or germ as the first ingredient. Cereals must be whole grain, enriched or fortified. Carefully read the ingredient labels to ensure these requirements are met.
- 2. A grain/bread must be served for breakfast, lunch and supper, and may be one of the two components served at snack.
- 3. At least ¼ serving of grains/breads must be served to count as part of the required serving size.
- 4. Children and older adults need nutrient dense foods. Sweets may not be credited as grains/breads at lunch, and must be limited to no more than twice a week at snack. Limiting sweet grains/breads is recommended at breakfast. Sweet food items are indicated with a footnote of 3 or 4.
- 5. See pages 2-14, 2-17 and 2-18 to determine portion sizes for grains/breads.

Creditable

Bagels Banana, carrot, pumpkin, zucchini bread Biscuits Boston brown bread Bread pudding, homemade^{1, 3} (must have standardized recipe) Breading or batter on meats (must have CN label, PFS, or standardized recipe) Bread sticks, hard 2 or soft Bread stuffing 1 Cake, cupcakes 3,5 Cereal - dry or cooked, 6 gm. of sugar or less is recommended Cereal bars 1, 2, 4 (must have if homemade or PFS if purchased) Chips 2 – grain based, enriched or whole grain \square Chow mien noodles Cinnamon rolls ⁴ Coffee cake ⁴ Cookies, brownies or bars $^{3,5}\,\square$ Corn bread or corn muffins Corn pone, hoe cake Corn tortillas Couscous Crackers 2 Cream puff shells 3, 5 Crepes Croissants [Croutons² Doughnuts 4, 5 \square **Dumplings** Egg roll skins, won ton wrappers English muffins Fig bars ³ (only the cookie credits) Fruit crisp or cobbler crust, homemade 1, 3, 5 (must have recipe) Fry bread Gingerbread Graham crackers Grain fruit bars, granola bars 1, 2, 4 Grains - barley, cornmeal, farina, millet, oats, quinoa, rice, wheat (if whole grain, enriched or fortified) Granola 1, 2 Grits, whole grain or enriched Hushpuppies Kasha (buckwheat) □Limit use since may be high in salt and/or high in fat.

Macaroni in boxed or homemade macaroni and cheese Pie crust or shell⁵ - dessert pies ³, or in main dish pie (must have recipe) Pita bread Pizza crust **Popovers** Pretzels, soft and hard² Pop tarts, toaster pastries (only the crust) 4,5 Puff pastry with main dish Quick breads including biscuits, muffins, banana, carrot, pumpkin, zucchini Rice cakes 5 Rice pudding ^{1, 3} □ (must have standardized recipe) Scones Snack crackers ² Sopapillas 3 Spoon bread Sweet rolls, buns, pastries ⁴ Taco or tortilla shells ²□ **Tortillas** Turnover crust 4 \square Vanilla wafers (plain cookies) 3 Waffles Wheat germ, bran

Macaroni, noodles, spaghetti and other pasta shapes

Non creditable

Caramel corn

Commercial breading or batter (must have CN label or PFS)

Commercial cereal bars (must have CN label or PFS)

Grains included in smoothies

Grits (if whole grain or enriched)

Hominy

Ice cream cones 5 (only if whole grain or enriched)

Nut or seed flour

Popcorn

Potatoes, potato pancakes (credit as a vegetable)

Potato chips, potato sticks

Tapioca

- ¹ Only the amount of bread, flour, meal or grain counts.
- ² Hard, dry foods may cause choking.
- ³ Sweet food product-creditable for snacks only.
- Sweet food product-creditable for snacks and breakfast only.
- ⁵ Serving size probably not reasonable.

Grains/Breads^{1, 2} Serving Size Chart

Grain bread products are divided into nine groups according to the serving size needed to provide 14.75 grams of flour. When water, fat, sugar, fruit, or nuts are added, a larger serving is needed to provide this amount of flour.

Group A	Group D
	ving = 50 gm or 1.8 oz
	ving = 25 gm or 0.9 oz
	and yeast raised, unfrosted)
• Bread sticks (hard) ⁷ • Granola bars ⁴ (plair	
• Chow mien noodles ⁷ • Muffins (all, except	
• Crackers (saltines or soda crackers and snack • Sweet rolls ⁴ (unfros	ted)
crackers) • Sweet quick breads	s (e.g., banana, pumpkin, zucchini)
• Croutons ⁷ • Toaster pastries ⁴ (u	infrosted)
• Pretzels (hard) ⁷	Group E
· ·	ving = 63 gm or 2.2 oz
	ving = 31 gm or 1.1 oz
	ts, raisins, chocolate pieces
Group B and/or fruit purees)	
	and yeast raised, frosted or
½ serving = 13 gm or 0.5 oz glazed)	
• Bagels, bagel chips	
• Bagels, bagel chips • Grain fruit bars ⁴	
	th nuts, raisins, chocolate
Biscuits pieces and/or fruit)	
Breads (white, wheat, whole wheat, French, Rice cakes, with cheeping and the second	ocolate chips or peanut butter
Italian, pumpernickel, raisin) • Sweet rolls ⁴ (frosted	d) (b
• Buns (hamburger and hot dog) • Toaster pastries ⁴ (fr	rosted)
Crackers (graham crackers - all shapes,	Group F
animal crackers)	ing = 75 gm or 2.7 oz
* Egg foll skills	ring = 38 gm or 1.3 oz
• English mullins	
• Pita bread (white, wheat, whole wheat) • Cake³ (plain, unfros	sted)
• Pizza crust • Coffee cake ⁴	
Pretzels (soft)	Group G
• Rolls (white, wheat, whole wheat, potato)	ving = 115 gm or 4 oz
• Tortillas (wheat or corn)	erving = 58 gm or 2 oz
• Tortilla chips (wheat or corn) 7	
• Taco or tortilla shells ⁷	
• Wonton wrappers • Cake³ (all varieties,	frosted)
	Group H
1 serving = 1	½ cup cooked (or 25 gm dry)
	½ serving = ¼ cup
Group C • Barley	
1 serving = 31 gm or 1.1 oz • Breakfast cereals (c	cooked) ^{5, 6}
½ serving = 16 gm or 0.6 oz • Bulgur, couscous or	r cracked wheat
• Macaroni (all shape	es)
• Cookies" (plain)	
Combread, Johnny cake of hushpuppies Pasta (all shapes)	,
• Com munins	()
Rice (enriched white)	
• Paricakes of crepes	Group I
• Pie crust (dessert pies³, fruit turnovers⁴,	
and meaning = 1/	cup or 1 oz, whichever is less cup or .5 oz, whichever is less
	fast cereal (cold dry) ^{5, 6}
• Cereal bars ^{4, 8} The following foods are whole-grain or enriched or made with enriched or whole-grain meal and/or flour, bran, and/or germ.	

² Some of the following foods, or their accompaniments may contain more sugar, salt, and/or fat than others. This should be a consideration when deciding how often to serve them.

³ Sweet food product-creditable for snacks only.

⁴ Sweet food product-creditable for snacks and breakfasts only.

⁵Breakfast cereals are traditionally served as a breakfast menu item but may be served in meals other than breakfast.

⁶ Cereals must be whole-grain, enriched, or fortified; list whole grain, bran or germ as the first ingredient on the label; or meet nutrient criteria.

⁷ Hard dry foods may cause choking.

⁸ To count as one full serving of grains/breads, a homemade cereal bar must contain ¾ cup or 1 ounce of the cereal, whichever is less. Purchased cereal bars may not be automatically credited; a Product Formulation Statement must be obtained from the manufacturer. Crediting will depend on the volume or weight of the ready-to-eat cereal in each bar.